

PETER, PAUL, AND MARRIAGE

(I Peter 3:1-6; Eph. 5:22-33)

- Introduction:
1. It is rather ironic what man can do to God's divine arrangements that were meant for our good.
 - a. (Romans 7:10) *"For the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death."*
 - b. The institution of marriage was for man's good (Genesis 2:18-24), but will be the cause of many lost souls (I Peter 3:7).
 2. Marriage is so intricately connected to our spirituality, that if we fail in one, we fail in the other.
 3. Thus, allow me to remind you of God's design for our conduct within the marriage relationship.

I. WIVES, BE SUBMISSIVE TO YOUR HUSBANDS

- A. This is not some sort of medieval chauvinism, but the word of God.
- B. (I Peter 3:1; Ephesians 5:22).
- C. It should be needless to say that this submission has nothing to do with value or worth, but simply to role (I Corinthians 11:11-12; Galatians 3:28).
- D. Notice also the degree of this submission.
 1. As unto the Lord (Eph. 5:22).
 2. As the church is subject to Christ (Eph. 5:24).
 3. In everything (Eph. 5:24).
- E. In view of this, be sure that you marry a man who will respect his god given role as a husband.
 1. Failure on the husband's part to love you as he should does not relieve you of your responsibility to be submissive.
 2. (Colossians 3:22-4:1).
 3. Submission when it suits you is not submission at all.
- F. With this in mind, it is often stated (mostly by men) that submission should not be hard, for we are all submissive to Christ, and that is not degrading or difficult.
 1. It is true that Christ is submissive to God, man is submissive to Christ, and woman is submissive to man (I Corinthians 11:3).
 2. But what makes our submission to Christ easy is our recognition of Him as our superior, and our knowledge of his perfection.
 3. The woman's subjection to man is not based upon the same premises. She is willfully subjecting to an equal, one who is not always perfect.
 4. That's what makes it so difficult, but it must be mastered.

II. HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES

- A. The depth of your love toward your wife has much to do with her getting to heaven and your getting to heaven.
- B. The degree of your love toward you wife is:
 - 1. As Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25).
 - 2. As you love your own body (Eph. 5:28).
- C. The type of love you should have toward your wife should be:
 - 1. Considerate (I Peter 3:7).
 - 2. Spiritual (Eph. 5:23).
 - 3. Sacrificial (Eph. 5:25).
 - 4. Tender (Eph. 5:28).
- D. The headship and authority you have been given in the home is not to prove you're a man, but to prove what kind of man you are.

- Conclusion:
- 1. Marriage was intended by God to be a blessing to mankind.
 - 2. Instead, it has created as much misery, and destroyed as many souls as anything I can think of.
 - 3. The only way to turn this around is to go back to God's plan for marriage, and abide by what He stated.